PO 101 Simulation 1: Section B3 (20 Points)

I want our class to be fun, interesting, and interactive. Learning occurs not just by hearing, but also by doing. Therefore, to practice political civility and understand political parties and ideology (Student Learning Goal #5 in the syllabus), we will simulate a series of debates on **February 10 and 12**. I will serve as the debate moderator from the Erskine News Network! And you will present a typical Democratic or Republican position on your assigned topic (please see your individual assignment on the next page) with a 1–1.5 minute statement, prepared in advance. After the initial statements, each round will feature an open-discussion period of 2 minutes. Please **listen carefully** to your opponent's statement so that you can identify relevant questions and critiques for the open-discussion period, and then be ready to respond to queries and arguments from the other side. Let's have a spirited, but civil, debate in line with Dr. Black's guidance in *Honoring God in Red or Blue*!

Potential resources to guide your debate preparation:

- Affirmative Negative Interesting chart
- Alternative debate chart

Your participation will be worth 20 points and will be graded according to the following criteria:

- *Timeliness*. Please be in the classroom and ready to speak when it is your turn. Be ready to speak on day 1 even if you have one of the final debate rounds!
- *Duration and style*. Your statement should last for 1–1.5 minutes. Students who exceed the limit may be interrupted in the interest of time. Please be familiar with your presentation so that you can deliver it well (e.g., good eye contact with the audience, few pauses, and few unnecessary words such as "uh").
- *Accuracy*. Please ensure that the facts in your presentation are accurate according to your assigned position, as well as the class readings or other sources that you may use for the assignment. Let us avoid rumor and misinformation in the simulation.
- *Depth*. Your responses should state not just *what* you think according to your assigned position but also *how* and *why* you answered as you did. Please do not simply state that you agree or disagree; explain yourself, providing evidence for your statements. Moreover, if an example would support your argument or if an example is implied by your response, please provide the example.
- *Logical consistency*. Your argument should be strong and logically consistent. Please avoid the following:
    - Unexplained logic (e.g., "the policy is unwise"; put another way, unexplained logic would lack depth, as discussed above)
    - Incomplete logic (e.g., "this policy position is wise because [insert your assigned political party] makes wise decisions"; instead, discuss the wisdom of the position based on its inherent morality or its net benefit to society; please speak in accordance with your assigned party's political ideology)
    - Inaccurate logic (e.g., "I agree with this tax policy because of the benefits to all tax brackets"; unless this is true, your logic would be inaccurate and would receive a deduction)
    - Disorganized statements (e.g., focusing on one topic in your statement and then introducing a largely or entirely unrelated matter)

- *Participation in the open-discussion round*. Each student should identify at least one question or critique for the other side, and everyone should respond to the other person's question or critique! Your participation in the open-discussion round will be evaluated according to accuracy, depth, and logical consistency.

Errors will consist of -1.5 points each.

After the debates, you will imitate an American survey respondent by completing a poll about which side—Democrat or Republican—won the debates.[1] If we have time, we also will discuss the more interesting points of the simulation.

Please attend class on time to be eligible for the full 20 points. If you arrive late and we run out of time, you will **not** be able to present. Unless you have an excused absence, you will **not** be eligible to make up the missed points.[2] If you have an excused absence, you can complete an alternative assignment worth the same number of points.

The first presenter in each round will be determined by a random number generator.

Debate Topic	**Democrat/ Liberal**	**Republican/ Conservative**
1. Should unemployment benefits, food assistance, and other welfare payments be provided only if recipients are actively looking for work? Why or why not?	Rylee Bath	Duvine Beebe
2. How should the federal government attempt to manage inflation for American consumers?	Josiah Burson	Xavier Carr
3. How should the federal government respond to the housing shortage in the United States?	Brynlee Drake	Beckett Driggers
4. Do you approve of South Carolina's prohibition of abortion after six weeks of pregnancy? Why or why not?	Gavin Gonzalez	Kiki Gregory
5. Should the federal government end programs to promote diversity, equality, and inclusion (DEI)? Why or why not?	Hakeem Holmes	Maine Johnson
6. What steps, if any, should be taken to curb gun violence in our country?	Tyler Koester	Talan Laburda
7. How should the federal government respond to cases of racial injustice committed by local police officers?	Flen Larkin	Nelson Marcello
8. Should Americans be required to show photo identification in order to vote? Why or why not?	Tyranny McGowan	Preston Murphy
9. How should the federal government respond to the issue of undocumented, or illegal, immigration?	Joenathan Peeples	Riley Salsbury
10. What measures, if any, would you support to reduce the effects of climate change?	Rob Spaulding	Conner Speller

[1] Please see this news article for an example of such a poll.
[2] If you miss your speaking slot on day 1 without excuse but attend on day 2, you can give your presentation, but there will be a late penalty of 3 points.

11. Should the United States freeze its foreign aid to other countries? Why or why not?	Kayla Stanley	Josh Thomas
12. Should the United States attempt to control Greenland and the Panama Canal—by force if necessary? Why or why not?	Logyn Wells	Genesis Young
Notes: Some of these questions are based on https://www.lwv.org/league-management/elections-tools/sample-questions-debates-and-voters-guides.		